IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A method of forming a polymeric component, comprising:

providing a primary extrusion in a solid state;

zone heating at least one portion of the primary extrusion to create a molten zone within the at least one portion, leaving surrounding portions of the primary extrusion in a solid state; and

compressing the at least one portion between a pressing unit and a die cavity until the at least one portion takes the shape of the pressing unit and die cavity and forms a solid state section molded feature integral with the primary extrusion.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 the step of providing a primary extrusion, further comprising:

heating a polymeric compound and forcing the heated compound through an orifice to form a heated extrusion; and

cooling the heated extrusion to form a primary extrusion in a solid state.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

aligning the zone heating and compression steps in an off-line operation; and

forming the section molded portion in the off-line operation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

aligning the heating, cooling, zone heating and compressing steps in an in-line operation; and

forming the polymeric component in the in-line operation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 the step of zone heating at least one portion, further comprising:

applying zone heating of the type selected from the group consisting of:

convection heating, radiant heating, conduction heating, infrared heating, and induction heating.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a section mold unit having at least one pressing unit and at least one die cavity for forming a section molded feature integral to the primary extrusion; and

aligning the at least one molten zone with a corresponding die cavity of the section mold in preparation of compressing the molten zone.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

providing the die cavity to be comprised of a split die having a combined shape corresponding to the outer shape of a barbed projection to be section molded from the primary extrusion, and

providing the pressing unit to be comprised of an upper mandrel having a shape corresponding to the inner shape of the barbed projection; and

raising the mandrel and separating the split die to release the polymeric component.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

clamping the solid state portion of the primary extrusion to stabilize the primary extrusion prior to compressing the molten zone.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 the step of zone heating at least one portion, including:

simultaneously zone heating a plurality of portions along the length of the primary extrusion to simultaneously create a plurality of molten zones, leaving the surrounding portions of the primary extrusion in a solid state;

providing a section mold having a plurality of die cavities and pressing units; and

aligning each portion having a molten zone with a corresponding die cavity of the section mold.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

providing a section mold unit having a plurality of identical die cavities and pressing units.

11. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

providing a section mold unit having a plurality of dies cavities and pressing units and wherein at least one die cavity and pressing unit define a section mold feature shape different from at least one other die cavity and pressing unit.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 the step of zone heating at least one portion, including:

zone heating a first portion of the primary extrusion to create a molten zone within the first portion, while leaving the remaining portion of the primary extrusion in a solid state;

providing a section mold having a die cavity and pressing unit, the die cavity and pressing unit;

aligning the molten zone of the first portion with the die cavity;

compressing the first portion between the pressing unit and die cavity until the first portion takes the shape defined by the die cavity and pressing unit and forms a solid state integral with the primary extrusion;

advancing the primary extrusion;

zone heating a second portion of the primary extrusion to create a molten zone within the second portion, leaving the surrounding portion of the primary extrusion in a solid state;

aligning the molten zone of the second portion with the die cavity; and

compressing the second portion between the pressing unit and the die cavity until the second portion takes the shape defined by the die cavity and pressing unit and forms a solid state integral with the primary extrusion.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)